

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**  
**Bureau of Customs and Border Security**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 7, 2003**

## **McAllen Sector One- Day Seizures Total \$3.6 Million**

*McALLEN, Texas* – Chief Patrol Agent Jose E. Garza announces that Border Patrol Agents operating throughout the McAllen Sector seized 4,511 pounds of marijuana in seven separate seizures valued at \$3,608,800.00.

The seizures occurred on March 5, involving Agents from the Falfurrias, McAllen and Fort Brown stations. The seizures occurred while agents performed traffic-checkpoint operations, line-watch and other patrol duties. Since the beginning of the fiscal year, McAllen Sector Agents have seized 138,843 pounds of marijuana, 349 ounces of heroin and 3,206 pounds of cocaine valued at \$214,588,202.00.

March 5, seven seizures were made totaling 4,511 pounds of marijuana. Five seizures by Agents from the Falfurrias Station, one by Agents from the McAllen Station and one by Agents from the Fort Brown station.

Of the 4,511 pounds of marijuana seized on March 5, 2,969 pounds valued at \$2,375,200.00 was seized in a single incident that occurred at approximately 11:15 p.m., at the Falfurrias Border Patrol Checkpoint. The checkpoint is located approximately 13 miles south of Falfurrias, Texas, on Highway 281. The narcotics seizure occurred when a tractor-trailer approached the primary inspection area. As the Agents questioned the driver concerning his immigration status, a canine unit alerted positive to the odor of narcotics or human cargo in the area of the trailer. The driver of the tractor-trailer was referred to secondary inspection for a more intensified examination. In secondary inspection, the Agents discovered 86 bundles of marijuana, weighing 2,969 pounds, in the trailer area. The driver (a United States Citizen), the tractor-trailer and the narcotics were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration in Corpus Christi, Texas.

On this same day another seizure yielded 802 pounds of marijuana valued at \$641,600.00. At approximately 12:09 p.m., Agents from the McAllen Station working line-watch duties observed numerous subjects swimming back to Mexico from the United States. The Agents called for assistance in searching the area for possible narcotics or other subjects. The Agents observed a grass trail going north towards the town of Granjeno, Texas. An extensive search of the area resulted in the location of eight large sacks containing marijuana weighing 802 pounds. A further search of the area proved negative for any subjects. The marijuana was turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration in McAllen.

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